

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Apex Plating and Polishing - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region II

**Subject:** POLREP #4  
Progress  
Apex Plating and Polishing

Linden, NJ  
Latitude: 40.6335030 Longitude: -74.2393783

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**Date:** 7/10/2014

**Reporting Period:** 6/26/2014 thru 7/6/2014

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A23V	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S2-10-03
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	TO 87/88	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	5/8/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	5/9/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	NJD981184591	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Removal Action at an abandoned electroplating facility.

### **1.1.2 Site Description**

The Site is a medium sized former electroplating facility that has been abandoned for approximately 3 years.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

The Apex Plating and Polishing Site is a former electroplating facility located at 725 Commerce Road in Linden, New Jersey. The Site is located in a commercial section of the city. The Site is bordered by businesses to the North, South and East and by Linden Park Cemetery to the West. The nearest business is approximately 25' from the southern site border. The nearest residences are approximately 1/4 mile south west of the Site. New Jersey State Highway 1, a major thoroughfare, is approximately 100 yards to the East. The city of Linden is a major metropolitan area of approx. 50,000 residents.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

The Site was under a NJDEP clean up order for EP chemicals however, the owners/operators died before completing the clean-up. Heirs of the property have no clear ability to continue the clean up and have abandoned the Site. On May 7, 2014, a NJDEP RCRA inspector visited the Site and determined that materials had been abandoned and that the building was in poor condition. The inspector informed the NJDEP Bureau of Emergency Response (BER) who responded to the scene. DEP responders observed numerous drums and containers of chemicals, some of which were leaking. There was no power or fire suppression capability in the building and the roof had several openings to the environment. Due to the potential for rain events over the coming days, DEP contractors overpacked several containers of cyanides. NJDEP BER contacted the National Response Center (NRC) and filed report number 1082061. NJDEP requested that EPA meet them at the facility the following morning.

On May 8, 2014, EPA OSCs from the Response and Prevention Branch met NJDEP BER personnel at the Site to conduct an assessment to determine eligibility for a potential EPA Removal Action. A joint DEP/EPA entry into the building confirmed the presence of several hundred containers of acids, cyanides, peroxides and other chemicals. Based on the poor condition of many of the drums and containers, the leaking roof and generally poor and unsecured condition of the building, EPA informed DEP that the site would meet the criteria for a removal action to be initiated. The Site was officially referred to EPA by DEP later that same day. EPA and their contractor mobilized to the Site on the morning of May 9, 2014.

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

The Site assessment confirmed the presence of nearly 1000 containers varying in size from 55 gallon drums to small laboratory jars. Materials abandoned at the Site include copper cyanide, nickel cyanide, potassium cyanide, silver cyanide, multiple acids, peroxides, spent plating solutions containing cyanides and many containers of unknown chemicals. The structure is in generally poor condition with broken windows and water leakage via many roof openings.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

On May 8, 2014, EPA OSCs from the Response and Prevention Branch met NJDEP BER personnel at the Site to conduct an assessment to determine eligibility for a potential EPA Removal Action. During the assessment, DEP informed EPA that the facility owners/operators were deceased and that the property and materials had been abandoned for approximately 3 years. A joint DEP/EPA entry into the building confirmed the presence of several hundred containers of acids, cyanides, peroxides and other

chemicals. Based on the poor condition of many of the drums and containers, the leaking roof and generally poor and unsecured condition of the building, EPA informed DEP that the site would meet the criteria for a removal action to be initiated. The Site was officially referred to EPA by DEP later that same day.

EPA and their contractor mobilized to the Site on the morning of May 9, 2014. The building was secured as well as possible and arrangements were made for a full contractor crew to arrive at the Site on Monday, May 12, 2014 to begin work. The coordination of obtaining necessary Site services began. On Monday, May 12, 2014, a complete inventory of materials located at the Site was initiated. Also during that week, debris was cleared to allow for safe interior workspace and holes in the roof were repaired to prevent water leakage into the building and a contamination reduction area was completed.

Sampling, field categorization and segregation of materials is ongoing. Real time air monitoring, with telemetry, is being performed during all Site operations. Coordination of the disposal of materials from the Site has been initiated. Approximately 15 plating vats have been cleaned and cut in preparation for disposal.

### **2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

At this time it appears that there are no viable PRPs for the Site. The search for viable PRPs is continuing.

### **2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

To date, approximately 893 containers have been inventoried. Of those, approximately 838 have been sampled and 838 have been field analyzed. All container information is being tracked in the EPA Response Manager database. Field analysis has confirmed the presence of strong acids, cyanides, spent plating solutions and plating residue. A total of 32 samples were taken from the floors, sumps and trenches in the facility. Field analysis indicates the presence of plating residues containing cyanides in most of the samples. To date, 23 plating vats have been dismantled.

<i><b>Waste Stream</b></i>	<i><b>Medium</b></i>	<i><b>Quantity</b></i>	<i><b>Manifest #</b></i>	<i><b>Treatment</b></i>	<i><b>Disposal</b></i>

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

- Sampling, categorization and segregation of materials abandoned at the Site as needed.
- Assessment of material in the drains, trenches, sumps and other areas of the Site to determine disposal options.
- Waste categorization of materials at the Site.
- Disposal of wastes from the Site.
- All other work determined to necessary as the Site progresses.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

See Section 2.2.1.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Transport and disposal of materials from the Site has been initiated. Shipping of material for disposal is scheduled to begin during the week of 7/7/2014. Plating vats continue to be cleaned and dismantled. To date 23 vats have been dismantled. Materials continue to be segregated based on field analysis.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

Some of the materials abandoned at the Site are extremely hazardous. Improper handling of these materials could cause chemical reactions resulting in the release of cyanides.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.4.1 Narrative**

Verbal funding in the amount of \$250,000 to initiate the Emergency Removal Action was received on May 8, 2014. A second verbal authorization in the amount of \$900,000 to continue and complete the Removal Action was received on May 16, 2014.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

NJDEP-BER  
NJDEP-Compliance and Enforcement

## **4. Personnel On Site**

Currently, personnel on Site include;

ERRS:

- 1 Response Manager
- 1 Field Accountant
- 1 Foreman
- 4 Field Technicians
- 1 Chemist

RST:

- 1 Senior Project Scientist

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

#### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

#### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

Polreps for this Site will be issued as needed.

#### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.